

AG30 Toxicological Emergencies (Overdose)

Objectives:

- To assess and treat patients who have a toxicological medical emergency

General Information:

- Do not act upon advice from poison control center; contact medical control for instructions
- CNS depressants (symptoms may include: respiratory depression, pinpoint pupils, bradycardia, hypotension)
 - a) Examples: Opiates (heroin, methadone, fentanyl, morphine, codeine, Ultram, oxycodone); benzodiazepines (Valium, Versed, Xanax, Librium, Ativan); Barbiturates (Nembutal, Secoanal, Amytal); Anesthetics (GHB, Ketamine); ethyl alcohol (EtOH)
 - b) Support patient's respirations as necessary with an OPA/NPA and BVM
 - c) Administer Narcan before attempting intubation
- Hallucinogens (symptoms may include: hallucinations, hypertension, tachycardia,)
 - a) Examples: LSD, Cannabis (marijuana), mescaline (peyote), PCP, mushrooms, Ecstasy, Jimson Weed, nutmeg, morning glory seeds
- CNS stimulants (symptoms may include: hypertension, tachycardia, dysrhythmias)
 - a) Examples: Cocaine (including crack), amphetamines (speed, diet pills); methamphetamines (crystal meth, ice, Ecstasy); Dexedrine; caffeine; club or designer drugs; ephedra and ephedrine
- Tricyclic Antidepressants (symptoms may include: altered mental status, seizure, depressed respirations, coma)
 - a) Examples: Amitriptyline (Elavil); Amoxapine (Asendin); Clomipramine (Anafranil); Doxepin (Sinequin, Adepin); Imipramine (Trofanil); Nortriptyline (Aventyl, Pamelor);
 - b) Flexeril (Cyclobenzaprine) is closely related to TCAs and should be treated the same



Warnings/Alerts:

- Narcan can precipitate seizures in patients with a seizure history or in long term narcotic addicts
- Narcan can precipitate dysrhythmias in patients with cardiac disease, including ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia
- The goal of Narcan administration is to establish an adequate respiratory rate, not to return the patient to full consciousness

OMD Notes:

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References:

Performance Indicators:

Initial Evaluation	Appropriate receiving facility	Documentation of substance taken (if known)
Treatment and Response to Treatment		

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